

Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program:

M.A. in International Relations (M.A.I.R.) -OR- Master of Public Administration (M.P.A.)

The accelerated program provides a pathway for motivated students to earn their bachelor's and master's degrees in under five years from Syracuse University!

Students majoring in the following Maxwell School undergraduate programs are eligible to apply to the accelerated bachelor's/master's for M.A.I.R. or M.P.A.:

- Anthropology, B.A.
- Citizenship & Civic Engagement, B.A.
- Economics, B.A.
- Geography, B.A.
- History, B.A.
- International Relations, B.A.
- Policy Studies, B.A.
- Political Science, B.A.
- Sociology, B.A.

Benefits of an Accelerated Degree

- **Save time!**
 - Up to 12 graduate credits can count towards the requirements for both your bachelor's and master's, reducing your time to completion by at least a semester. You may save even more time depending on your program or how many college credits you started with as an undergraduate.
- **Save money!**
 - In addition to earning a master's degree faster, you could also save approximately \$21,000 in graduate tuition by participating in an accelerated graduate program.
- Once you officially finish your undergraduate degree, you may become eligible for graduate scholarships and awards.

Application information on next page!

Application Details

How and when do I apply?

- Apply in the **spring semester of your junior year**, after you have declared one of the eligible majors and completed at least 75 credits towards your bachelor's degree. **The application deadline is March 15 (annually).**
- The application and more details can be found at the following link:
maxwell.syr.edu/admission-paia-accelerated

What do I need to apply?

- ☐ Online graduate application
 - Your entry term will be when you transition to graduate student status, typically a year from when you originally apply. For example, if you are applying in March 2024, you will be submitting the graduate application for Summer 2025 (M.P.A.) or Fall 2025 (M.A.I.R.).
- ☐ Three letters of recommendation:
 - At least two from current or former professors
 - At least one must be from someone in your Maxwell academic department (e.g. an advisor, professor, or program director)
- ☐ Personal statement
 - In addition to addressing the question posed on the application, be sure to **specifically address why you are applying to the Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's Program.**
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ Transcripts from any coursework taken outside of Syracuse University
- ☐ **Not required:** Application fee, GRE, TOEFL

I'm interested! Who do I contact for more information?

Discuss your interest in the accelerated bachelor's/master's program with your undergraduate academic advisor as early as possible, so they can help you choose proper courses and stay on track.

For additional information, please complete [this brief request form](#).

Supporting Information

How is the accelerated program different than the standard M.P.A. and M.A.I.R. degree(s)?

Students are taking the exact same courses as any other graduate student. The only difference is the expedited timeline and ability to begin taking graduate courses early. You can view the curriculum in the Syracuse University Graduate Course Catalog.

How is the accelerated program structured?

Students admitted to the accelerated program can take a maximum of 12 graduate credits while still matriculated as an undergraduate student. **It is critical, however, that at least half of the credits in any given semester are at the undergraduate level.**

EXAMPLE¹ FOR ACCELTRATED MPA STUDENTS

ACADEMIC TERM	COURSES
Spring (junior year)	Apply to the accelerated program by March 15 Students will be notified of their admission decision by mid-April
Fall (senior year)	12 undergraduate credits + 3 or 6 graduate credits
Spring (senior year)	12 undergraduate credits + 3 or 6 graduate credits
Graduate with a Bachelor's	
Summer (1 st business day in July)	1 credit Colloquium is required
Fall term (begins in late August)	9 graduate credits
Spring term (begins in mid-January)	12 graduate credits
Summer (May-June)	6 graduate credits
TOTAL	40 credits

¹ This is simply an example to help visualize how the accelerated program works best. While still matriculated as an undergraduate, students may take fewer than 12 graduate credits but may not exceed 12 graduate credits. Additionally, while still an undergraduate a student must have 50% of their coursework be undergraduate courses. Depending on the number of graduate credits earned while an undergraduate student, this will impact how many credits a student registers after completing their bachelor's.

EXAMPLE FOR ACCELERATED MAIR STUDENTS

ACADEMIC TERM	COURSES
Spring (junior year)	Apply to the accelerated program by March 15 Students will be notified of their admission decision by mid-April
Fall (senior year)	12 undergraduate credits + 3 or 6 graduate credits
Spring (senior year)	12 undergraduate credits + 3 or 6 graduate credits
Graduate with a Bachelor's	
Fall term (begins in late August)	12 graduate credits
Spring term (begins in mid-January)	12 graduate credits
Summer (May-June)	4 credits (includes internship)
TOTAL	40 credits

What if a student is graduating early and this structure doesn't work?

Students that are graduating significantly early and do not have at least 2 semesters available where 50% of their credits will be undergraduate coursework are not best suited for the accelerated program. We recommend that students in this situation apply with the general application process to the relevant graduate program.

Students that graduate in December can still apply for the accelerated program.

Can a student apply directly to any dual degrees?

Students cannot apply directly to any dual degrees as an accelerated student.

When students hear back an admission decision?

Admission notifications will be sent out by mid-April to the email address listed in the application materials.

If a student is admitted to the accelerated program, which graduate courses should they register for when still matriculated as an undergraduate student?

The Department recommends that students take a balanced mix of at least one core course and one elective. Ultimately, it's the student's discretion and a student may enroll in any open course with a PAI prefix.

How can a student earn scholarships and awards?

Students in the accelerated program are ineligible to receive graduate scholarships, grant aid or loans until they complete their Bachelor's degree. After students complete their undergraduate degree they will be eligible to receive graduate financial aid.

How much does the accelerated program cost?

At the graduate level, students pay cost per credit. Students can find current tuition rates posted on this webpage: <https://www.syracuse.edu/admissions/cost-and-aid/cost-of-attendance/graduate/>

- Simply, multiply the current cost per credit by the number of credits needed to earn the degree.
 - Remember, if you took graduate courses in undergrad, you can subtract the number of graduate credits earned while an undergraduate student from the total number of credits needed to earn the degree. This is where you get a significant cost savings!
 - For example, if you took the maximum number of graduate credits (12) while an undergraduate, this is how the calculation would be completed.
 - 40 total credits required - 12 graduate credits = 28 credits left to earn the degree. 28 graduate credits left *cost per credit = total tuition.

What if loans are needed to pay for graduate school?

Syracuse University's Office of Financial Aid offers loan counseling and support to all graduate students.

<https://www.syracuse.edu/admissions/cost-and-aid/apply/>

Who should a student contact with questions?

The first step should be to contact the assigned undergraduate advisor to receive counsel on the program and how an accelerated degree may impact undergraduate study.

For all other questions please contact the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs Department of Public Administration & International Affairs at paia@syr.edu or by completing [this brief information request form](#).